

Message Text

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FOR IBS VOA NEWS COVERAGE DESK ATTENTION AFRICAN DIVISION

PASS IPS AFRICA BRANCH

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SUBJ: UNDP MEETING SETS AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

THE MEETING IN YAOUNDE OF AFRICAN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED

NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (UNDP) HAS ESTABLISHED FIVE PRIORITY AREAS FOR UNDP ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA. PARTICIPANTS AT THE WEEK-LONG MEETING, WHICH ENDED ON TUESDAY, VOTED TO RECOMMEND TO UNDP'S GOVERNING COUNCIL THAT ITS PROGRAMS IN AFRICA CONCENTRATE ON REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION, FOOD PRODUCTION, DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, PROMOTION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION.

OF THE FIVE PRIORITY AREAS, THE FIRST THREE ARE EXPECTED TO ACCOUNT FOR 80 PERCENT OF UNDP EXPENDITURE IN AFRICA.

THE MEETING ALSO DISCUSSED UNDP'S FINANCIAL CRISIS, WHICH, IT WAS NOTED, WILL REQUIRE A CUT-BACK IN AID TO SEVERAL COUNTRIES IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. THESE COUNTRIES, WHICH WERE NOT IDENTIFIED, WERE URGED TO COMPLETELY RESTRUCTURE THEIR COOPERATION WITH UNDP AND TO ENCOURAGE COOPERATION BETWEEN UNDP AND OTHER

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SOURCES OF AID.

THE MEETING ALSO CALLED FOR GREATER COOPERATION BETWEEN UNDP AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA, THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY, AND THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM, AS WELL AS FOR THE CONTINUATION OF UNDP'S DECENTRALIZATION PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO MAKE ITS

ACTIVITIES IN INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES MORE RESPONSIVE TO NATIONAL NEEDS.

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